

VZCZCXR09188
OO RUEHCN RUEHGH RUEHVC
DE RUEHB^J #3305/01 2392253
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 262253Z AUG 08
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9551
INFO RUEHOO/CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI 0108

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIJING 003305

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL PGOV PHUM KOLY CH RS NP

SUBJECT: AUGUST 26 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: Olympics, Russia-Georgia Conflict, Tibet, Hu Jintao's Visit to Korea, SCO Summit, U.S.-India Nuclear Agreement, Human Rights, Six-Party Talks, Japan, Singapore.

¶1. Key points at the August 26 MFA Press Briefing:

-- On Russia-Georgia, China "hopes that relevant countries can work through dialogue to find solution to the issue."

-- China rejects the Dalai Lama's recent claims that Chinese security forces fired on ethnic Tibetans in Western Sichuan.

-- China will continue to follow domestic laws, international laws, and humanitarian principles in its handling of illegal border-crossers from North Korea.

-- The main mandate of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit meeting in Dushanbe is to "consolidate mutual trust, strengthen solidarity, deepen cooperation, and promote development between member states."

-- China believes that, "all countries, while fulfilling their obligation to international nuclear nonproliferation, have a right to peaceful use of nuclear energy and to carrying out international cooperation."

-- China expresses "dissatisfaction" toward a White House official's statement that China needs to improve its human rights record and that China didn't handle the issue of protests well during the Olympic period.

-- China will continue to adopt an "open attitude" to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

-- China hopes that Japan will honor its commitments to destroy chemical weapons left in China by Japan.

-- VISITS: At the invitation of Vice-Premier Wang Qishan, Singapore Vice Prime Minister Wang will visit September 2-6, to take part in China-Singapore bilateral cooperation meetings.

Russia and Georgia

¶2. China "has taken note of the latest developments" regarding Russian recognition of the breakaway regions of Georgia, and China "hopes that relevant countries can work through dialogue to find solution to the issue," MFA Spokesman Qin Gang said at the regular bi-weekly MFA press conference August 26.

Dalai Lama

¶3. China rejects the Dalai Lama's recent claims that Chinese security forces fired on ethnic Tibetans in Western Sichuan. "There are always contradictions between the Dalai Lama's words and actions," the spokesman stated. Qin suggested that the Dalai Lama has no evidence to support the allegations of a shooting incident. China's position on the Dalai Lama and other Tibet-related issues is consistent, Qin stressed, and "It is imperative for Dalai's side to

take concrete actions to create favorable conditions for further talks and contacts" between the Chinese Government and representatives of the Dalai Lama.

DPRK Refugees

¶ 14. Responding to a question concerning Hu Jintao's position should the issue of illegal North Korean border crossings be raised in Hu's visit to South Korea, Qin stated that China will continue to follow "domestic laws, international laws, and humanitarian principles" in its handling of such cases.

SCO Summit

¶ 15. Asked about this week's Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit meeting in Dushanbe, Qin said that the mandate of the meeting in Dushanbe is to "consolidate mutual trust, strengthen solidarity, deepen cooperation, and promote development between member states." The heads of state in attendance will exchange views on the development of the SCO as well as major international and regional issues. The heads of state will also "chart the courses for the next phase of work in security, economy, and people-to-people exchanges and cooperation." They will sign and release a joint communique and will approve a series of documents relating to security and exchanges. Qin expressed his belief that the summit will "further promote development of the SCO, make contributions to safeguarding regional security and stability and promote common development of member states."

BEIJING 00003305 002 OF 002

India Nuclear Cooperation

¶ 16. On the issue of the U.S.-India nuclear deal, Qin said that China believes "All countries, while fulfilling their obligation to international nuclear nonproliferation, have a right to peaceful use of nuclear energy and to carrying out international cooperation." Such cooperation "should be conducive to safeguarding completeness and effectiveness of the international nonproliferation regime."

White House Comments on Human Rights

¶ 17. Responding to a request for China's comment on a White House official's statement that China needs to improve its human rights record and handling of protest issues, Qin noted China's "dissatisfaction" toward the official's criticism. Qin stressed that foreigners engaged in Tibetan separatists activities during the Olympics violated Chinese laws, and "relevant authorities" will therefore handle such cases according to law. The United States, said Qin, should "tell its citizens to abide by the laws of other countries when they go to other countries, in order to avoid recurrence of such incidents."

¶ 18. Qin asked rhetorically whether the White House official in question "had any U.S. dollars in his pockets when he made such remarks." Lincoln's image, Qin noted, appears on U.S. currency. The White House official should recall Lincoln's first inaugural address in order to understand "the resolve of the Chinese government and its people to safeguard national sovereignty, unification and territorial integrity," and he should avoid adopting a double standard on this issue.

DPRK and the Six-Party Talks

¶ 19. Asked for China's reaction to North Korea's announcement that it is suspending disablement of its nuclear reactor at Yongbyon, and whether China had been informed of North Korea's plan, Qin reminded the audience that "positive progress" was recently made in the Talks. The Six-Party Talks, he said, are a "very complicated process involving concerns of all parties so, difficulties are

inevitable." China hopes that "open communications with other parties could help to overcome some difficulties and complicating elements so that we could implement remaining actions of the second phase." China will continue to adopt an "open attitude" to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Japanese Chemical Weapons

¶10. Asked about the Chinese position on the upcoming decision by a Tokyo court concerning the lawsuit filed by two Chinese teenagers in Jilin injured in 2004 by chemical weapons remaining from the 20th century Japanese invasion, Qin called the issue of leftover weapons from the Japanese invasion "one of the great crimes committed by Japanese militarism," and said that these weapons were "still causing great loss, damage and menace to local peoples' lives and property." China, stated Qin, hopes that Japan will honor its commitments to destroy chemical weapons left in China by Japan, and China hopes that Japan can "adopt a responsible attitude to properly handle this issue."

Visit: Singapore Vice Prime Minister Wang

¶10. VISITS: At the invitation of Vice-Premier Wang Qishan, Singapore Vice Prime Minister Wang will visit September 2-6, to take part in China-Singapore bilateral cooperation meetings.

RANDT